Claims 1-39 are pending. Claims 1-2, 6-9, 12-13, 16-22 and 25 are amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim Applicants' invention.

The Examiner imposes a restriction requirement in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants hereby elect Claims 1-26 for further prosecution.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication 2003/0236,860 ("Yegin"). With respect to independent claims 1, 8, 14, 17 and 22, the Examiner states:

> Regarding **claim 1** Yegin teaches a method of enabling channel scanning in a wireless station, said method comprising (figs. 1-9):
>
> receiving from an access point data related to a possibility of domain change (para. # 0027-0031, 0037, 0039, 0044); and selecting a channel scanning method based upon said data (para. # 0027-0031, 0037, 0039, 0044).
>
> *   *   *
>
> Regarding **claim 8** Yegin teaches a method of enabling channel scanning in a wireless station, said method comprising (figs. 1-9):
>
> establishing communication between said wireless station and an access point (para. # 0027-0031, 0037, 0039, 0044); receiving information in a lifetime field related to a period of time during which domain information could be used after the communication between said wireless station and said access point has been lost (para. # 0027-0031, 0037, 0039, 0044); and determining whether an elapsed period of time after the communication between said wireless station and said access point has been lost is greater than the period of time in said lifetime field (para. # 0027-0031, 0037, 0039, 0044).
>
> *   *   *
>
> Regarding **claim 14** Yegin teaches a method of enabling channel scanning in a wireless station, said method comprising (figs. 1-9):
>
> determining if a channel of a plurality of available channels

is a domain independent channel; and actively scanning the domain-independent channel (para. # 0027-0031, 0037, 0039, 0044).

* * *

Regarding claim 17 Yegin teaches a wireless station adapted to scan for channels in a wireless communication network, said wireless station comprising (figs. 19):

a receiver for receiving a data block, wherein said data block comprises a domain change pre-alert field (para. # 0027-0031, 0037, 0039, 0044); a controller coupled to said receiver, said controller selecting a channel scanning method based upon data in said domain change pre-alert field (para #0027-0031, 0037, 0039, 0044); and a transmitter coupled to said controller (para #0027-0031, 0037, 0039, 0044).

* * *

Regarding **claim 22** Yegin teaches a wireless station adapted to scan for channels in a wireless communication network, said wireless station comprising (figs. 19):

a receiver for receiving a data block, wherein said data block comprises a lifetime field (para. # 0027-0031, 0037, 0039, 0044); a controller coupled to said receiver, said controller selecting a channel scanning method based upon data in said lifetime field ; and a transmitter coupled to said controller (para. # 0027-0031, 0037, 0039, 0044).

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection. As amended,

independent Claims 1, 8, 17 and 22 each recite a change in regulatory domain:

1.   A method of enabling channel scanning in a wireless station, said method comprising:

receiving from an access point data related to a possibility of a regulatory domain change; and

selecting a channel scanning method based upon said data.

* * *

8.   (Currently amended) A method of enabling

channel scanning in a wireless station, said method comprising:

establishing communication between said wireless station and an access point;

receiving information in a lifetime field related to a period of time during which regulatory domain information could be used after the communication between said wireless station and said access point has been lost; and

determining whether an elapsed period of time after the communication between said wireless station and said access point has been lost is greater than the period of time in said lifetime field.

*   *   *

17.   (Currently amended) A wireless station adapted to scan for channels in a wireless communication network, said wireless station comprising:

a receiver for receiving a data block, wherein said data block comprises a regulatory domain change pre-alert field;

a controller coupled to said receiver, said controller selecting a channel scanning method based upon data in said regulatory domain change pre-alert field; and

a transmitter coupled to said controller.

*   *   *

22.   (Currently amended) A wireless station adapted to scan for channels in a wireless communication network, said wireless station comprising:

a receiver for receiving a data block, wherein said data block comprises a lifetime field related to the extent of a regulatory domain;

a controller coupled to said receiver, said controller selecting a channel scanning method based upon data in said lifetime field; and

a transmitter coupled to said controller.

(emphasis added)

As discussed in Applicants' Specification, at paragraph 3, "regulatory domains" relate to entities that "independently determine the frequency band and the maximum transmission power allowed for wireless communication systems." Similarly, Claim 14 recites a "domain-independent channel":

> 14.   (Original) A method of enabling channel scanning in a wireless station, said method comprising:
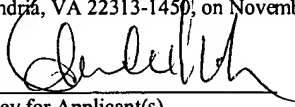>
>> determining if a channel of a plurality of available channels is a domain-independent channel; and
>>
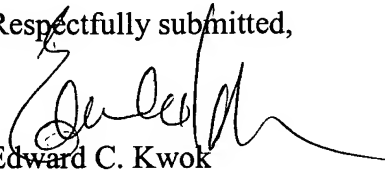>> actively scanning the domain-independent channel.

As discussed in Applicants' Specification, at paragraph 47, a domain-independent channel "can be actively scanned without any danger of regulatory violations."

Yegin, however, relates to neither "regulatory domains" nor "domain-independent channels." As made clear in Yegin's paragraphs 27-31, 37, 39 and 44, upon which the Examiner relies for his rejection, Yegin making available L2 (i.e., link layer) trigger signals to a client of a wireless access device. As discussed in Yegin's paragraph 3, L2 trigger is a signal provided from the link layer to a network layer. L2 triggers bear no relation to "regulatory domains" and "domain-independent channels." Thus, Yegin's teachings neither discloses nor suggests Claims 1, 8, 14, 17 and 22 and their respective dependent Claims 2-7, 9-13, 15-16, 18-21 and 23-26. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1-26 are therefore requested.

All claims (i.e., Claims 1-26) are therefore allowable. If the Examiner has any question regarding the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned Attorney for Applicant at (408)-392-9250.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on November 21, 2005.

_____ _____
Attorney for Applicant(s)   Date of Signature

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